

**Question for written answer E-009668/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Barbara Kappel (NI)

Subject: Protection against GMOs

On 11 November this year, the ENVI Committee declared that the prohibition, restriction or approval of the cultivation of genetically modified crops was a matter for the Member States. The Committee thus opposed the Commission's Directive, under which such cultivation would generally be permitted. Since it is up to the Member States to decide whether they will allow GMOs, the question arises as to how the Commission will deal in future with more stringent safety standards for the approval of GMOs and with Member States' freedom to decide.

1. In the face of so much resistance to GMOs, will the Commission in future take more account of the expertise and opinions of Member States on sensitive topics whose environmental and health effects are far from clear?
2. Why are genetically modified crops permitted in the European food industry, instead of promoting diversity in European food and focusing on sustainability?
3. There is still no labelling system to indicate when genetic technology has been used in the production of a foodstuff (e.g. where genetically modified feed is used in the production of meat). How will the Commission support Member States which want to protect themselves against imports of GMOs if a majority of the population is in favour of such a ban?